

## *Cape May County at a glance*

### PEOPLE

- 96,000 year round residents with an estimated summer population of 812,000
- 4.5 percent of the people are under 5 years old
- 18.5 percent are under 18 years old
- 22.1 percent are over 65 years old
- Per capita income is \$52,276
- Median household income is approximately \$57,000
- Over 99,000 housing units consisting of 41 percent year-round residents and 59 percent for seasonal use

### GEOGRAPHY

- Encompassing 256 square miles of land area located at the southern tip of the state bordered by Atlantic County to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the east and south, the Delaware Bay to the west and Cumberland County to the northwest
- Made up of 16 municipalities
- 30 miles of white sandy beaches on the barrier islands with thousands of acres on the mainland preserved for open space, farmlands and natural conservation
- Middle Township, with over 70 square miles, is geographically the largest of all the municipalities.
- Lower Township, with approximately 23,000 people, is the most populated.

### ECONOMY

- Tourism represents the number one industry generating \$5.5 billion a year in revenues.
- Total labor force is 58,190 people
- There are nearly 3,800 private business establishments.
- The County's largest employment component in the Private Sector is leisure and hospitality which includes lodging, food services, recreation and amusements.
- The second largest employment sector is trade, transportation and utilities.
- Government employs 17.1 percent of the non-agriculture labor force.



The Board of Chosen Freeholders meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., Caucus 5:30 p.m. and the fourth Tuesday at 4:30 p.m., Caucus 3 p.m.

Meetings are held at the  
William E. Sturm, Jr. Administration Building



4 Moore Road  
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210  
Office of the Board of Chosen Freeholders



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Revised 11/14

# *Cape May County Government*



## **Board of Chosen Freeholders**

**Gerald M. Thornton, Director**  
**Leonard C. Desiderio, Vice-Director**  
**Kristine Gabor**  
**Will Morey**  
**E. Marie Hayes**

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## *What is a Freeholder?*

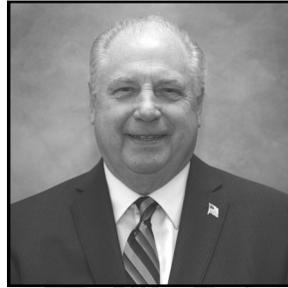
A freeholder is the elected county government representative in New Jersey who serves on the county's main governing body, the Board of Chosen Freeholders. The term "freeholder" originates from medieval England and was designated to individuals who owned property. During this period, only those individuals who held property "free" and clear were eligible to vote in elections as well as to hold public office. Influenced by early English tradition, the State of New Jersey continued to use the title "freeholder" in its 21 county governments.

The Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders was incorporated by an act of the New Jersey Legislature in 1798. The modern board consists of five members that are elected "at-large" to three-year staggered terms. The board is organized every January when departments are designated and a director and vice-director are selected.



## *What are the duties of a Freeholder?*

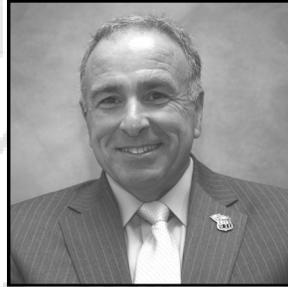
Under Cape May County's form of government, the Board of Chosen Freeholders acts as both the legislative and executive branches of county government. As legislators, the Board of Chosen Freeholders adopts resolutions establishing its policies of governing as well as its budgetary decisions in the appropriation of county tax dollars. It also adopts ordinances that authorize county borrowing and the incurring of debt for short and long term improvements for county equipment and facilities. In its executive capacity, the freeholder board appoints the Clerk of the Board, Director of Operations and all department heads to carry out the mandates established by their resolutions and ordinances. Each freeholder is designated to oversee the day-to-day operations of specific county departments as well as serve as liaison to various authorities, boards, councils, commissions and committees established within county government.



**Gerald M. Thornton**

Freeholder Director  
thornton@co.cape-may.nj.us

**Director of Administration, Revenue & Finance and Emergency Management** overseeing Administration, Clerk of the Board, County Counsel, Emergency Management, Facilities and Services, Management Information Services, Purchasing Department, Risk Management and Safety, Special Projects, Treasurer's Office and Veterans' Bureau



**Leonard C. Desiderio**

Freeholder Vice-Director  
desiderio@co.cape-may.nj.us

**Director of Public Safety** overseeing Animal Shelter, Consumer Affairs/Weights & Measures, Fire Marshal, Human Resources, Medical Examiner, Prosecutor, Public Safety Training Center and Sheriff's Department/Correctional Center



**Kristine Gabor**

Freeholder  
gabor@co.cape-may.nj.us

**Director of Health and Human Services** overseeing Aging/Disabilities, Crest Haven Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Family Court Assessment Team (FCAT), Health Department, Human Services, Mosquito Control, Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Youth Services



**Will Morey**

Freeholder  
morey@co.cape-may.nj.us

**Director of Planning, Economic Development, Education and Engineering** overseeing Bridges, Economic Development, Engineer's Office, Open Space and Farmland Preservation, Planning Department, Roads, Rutgers Cooperative Extension and Superintendent of Schools



**E. Marie Hayes**

Freeholder  
hayes@co.cape-may.nj.us

**Director of Tourism and Public Information, Public Offices and Transportation** overseeing Board of Elections, County Clerk/Adjuster, Culture and Heritage, Fare Free Transportation, Library, Museum, Park/Zoo, Print Shop, Surrogate, Tax Board and Tourism and Public Information



**Elizabeth Bozzelli**

Clerk of the Board  
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**Mike Laffey**

Director of Operations  
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